

Minuteman

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Training never ends for Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

By Tech. Sgt. Bob Purtiman
Public Affairs

When our country was suddenly thrown into the war on terrorism following the tragic attacks on Sept. 11, many Americans volunteered to do whatever they could to help out. Members of the 94th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron were some of the first ones to step forward.

In the hours following the attack, 99 percent of the people assigned to the unit had said they would volunteer to deploy — that's an incredible statistic. If the situation develops to where the coalition may suffer numerous casualties, AE participation will be vital to the success of the campaign.

"Our wartime mission is tactical aeromedical evacuation of wounded soldiers under medical supervision on the C-130, out of the combat zone to treatment centers in the rear area," explained Lt. Col.

Roger Beaty, 94th AES executive officer.

"We are extremely important to the Defense Department during combat operations," Beaty said. "The Reserve and National Guard make up more than 95 percent of the DOD's tactical aeromedical evacuation capability."

As ground troops face the likelihood of going into battle, they have the comfort in knowing that, if wounded, they will receive expedient and effective medical care both on the ground and during evacuation.

"It's a big morale boost for our troops to know that should they be wounded, they will receive life-saving medical care and aeromedical evacuation from the combat zone," 20-year aeromedical evacuation veteran Beaty said.

After the wounded are ready to be loaded on the aircraft teams of flight nurses and medical technicians perform their medical care.

"Once we're in the air, we're basically a flying hospital," said 1st Lt. Kevin McIntyre, 94th AES training officer and flying nurse. "Short of operating on someone — we have many capabilities."

The teams of two flight nurses and three medical technicians are crewmembers on the aircraft —



Master Sgt. Ken Farrey, areomedical technician, reviews a patient's record during a training exercise in October. (Photo by Don Peek)

trained on many of the C-130 systems and emergency procedures.

"We are critical in a wartime situation because the American people are going to look to us to evacuate our guys so they can get the best care possible," McIntyre said.

"It's important for our troops to get the care that

they need — without us, that's not going to happen.

"When people are wounded on the battlefield and they don't have the confidence in the medical system that's backing them up, it causes major problems and reduces our war fighting abilities," he added. "I think everyone has that confidence in us."

What it all boils down to is dedication, according to McIntyre. He believes the dedication level is as great, if not greater than the typical reserve unit. The demands placed on the squadron members expands beyond the normal weekend duty — they are constantly training to ensure they're current in both their flying and medical job requirements.

To put the massive amounts of coordination in place, the 94th AES relies on aeromedical evacuation operations teams.

The teams set up in theater and per-

form mission and crew control and management functions, said Chief Master Sgt. Jim Emmitt, 94th AES superintendent of aeromedical operations. They also act as a resupply hub for other forward located aeromedical units.

"We'll deploy a 32-person package," Emmitt explained. "We have people in career fields ranging from communications to logistics to medical to administration as part of the deployment."

"Our job is extremely important in the big picture," he said. "The AEOTs put the medical aircrews in the air to perform the patient transport, both in the theater and for mission leaving the theater. And, as needed, can send in resupply materials with an in-theater aircraft. We also interface with the aircrew management activities on our operating base."

"The AEOT is a small but integral part of the airlift system — like a small piece of the puzzle," said Emmitt. "Everyone has an important role for everything to run smoothly."



Staff Sgt. Danny Nottis, areomedical technician (left) and Capt. Steve Shannonhouse, Medical Service Corps officer, offload patients during block training. (Photo by Don Peek)



Tech. Sgt. Randy Harris, (left) areomedical technician, and Maj. Kathy Robinson-Waites, flight nurse, practice floor loading patients in a chemical environment. (Photo by Don Peek)

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Around the Wing



(Photo by Senior Airman David Atchison)

By 1st Lt. Fred Dri
94th Operations Support Flight,
intelligence officer

I was teaching a class across the street from the north tower of the World Trade Center when we heard a loud thundering and then a boom. My first thought was a bomb had gone off. It's one of those moments you think about and train for, but it takes you by surprise. I knew it was serious and we had to take quick action.

When the first plane hit the center, it triggered some basic survival reactions in me. This included aspects of force protection training I've received. That, along with some common sense helped our group clear the building and make our way to safety. I'm an instructor with Hewlett Packard and felt responsible for getting our students out of the building. After that we parted ways to meet our own needs, but I had to tell one of the students that belongings could be replaced and not to go back after them.

As tragic as it was, I learned a lot from this and realize more than ever the importance of force protection and taking the measures we've been trained to do. You never know when something is going to happen, nor its magnitude. First, and very important, if you are not required at a scene, get away from it. Distance is your

friend after an act of terrorism. As you leave, be aware of your direction of travel. I used the subway to head north to get further away from the scene.

In retrospect, catching the subway was a good decision, as I was able to avoid the fallout after the first of the two towers collapsed. I became more concerned about follow-up attacks and what form they could take. I thought about the chemical attack in the Japan subway.

After I cleared the immediate area, I called my wife who took care of calling my work and my unit at Dobbins. By making one call, I saved time and was able to concentrate on getting out of the city without worrying about my family and employer trying to account for me.

Having several relatives in the area and looking back, I should have taken the ferry to Newark, N. J., where roadways were more accessible and there were wide-open spaces to the west and I could have driven home with less delay. Instead, I walked to Long Island City and took the Long Island Railroad over to Northport, Long Island, where another relative lived. From there I was able to rent a car and drive home. It was wonderful to get back with my wife and family.

I'm even more aware now, and when I hear force protection and operations security, I just hope that everyone is listening as closely as I am and paying attention to their surroundings. This issue of the *Minuteman* discusses several good points about how we can protect ourselves, but I want to reinforce a couple of thoughts.

Protect yourself and family by always being alert and being aware of your environment.

Make sure your family is educated about possible attacks. This is from the worse case scenario where you have to leave the area to just being aware of strangers and unusual packages. Get to know your neighbors. You don't know when you may need them, and it is important to know who they are. Finally, be sensitive to how you talk to your children who are already frightened by the attacks.

We're a changed nation, but it's

remarkable how we pulled together so quickly after the attack. Our resolve was tested and we reacted. Our nation has embraced the value of freedom and is determined to carry those freedoms forth to future generations.

Top-Three Connection



(Photo by Don Peek)

By Master Sgt. Timothy Hosenfeld
622nd Regional Support Group,
chaplain assistant

As a reservist, how many times have you been asked, "Have you been called yet?" The events of Sept. 11, have brought these words to a different perspective. Many different "callings" come with the title of non-commissioned officers.

As an NCO, we are called to be leaders. We must be able to lead by example. Our airmen need to be able to distinguish the leaders from the followers. As a leader, we uphold our duties and responsibilities with honor and integrity. Our supervisors look to us as the support structure for the mission of the Air Force. As NCOs we cannot fail this tasking.

As reservists, we are called to perform "Above and Beyond" the call of duty. Many hours are spent traveling to and from each UTA weekend to accom-

plish our duties and responsibilities. It is early to rise and late to leave every UTA weekend. Out of the hectic schedules to finish the checklists, meetings, and training requirements, we manage to do our jobs with joy and enthusiasm.

As a parent, we are called to raise our children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews in a manner that they may appreciate and understand the commitment we have made to the United States Air Force Reserve. We must reassure our children that freedom is not taken for granted. We are called to be their support structure for their everyday lives. We must keep an open line of communication with our family members. They have many fears and questions concerning deployments, financial needs, and when will we return if called up. Try to be very open and honest with your answers. Honesty is always the best policy.

As a civilian employee, we are called to perform our daily job responsibilities for our employer. The support of our employers is appreciated and not taken for granted. Many employers want to support to the military. Our employers also want to know how this event, if called up, could impact their business. We should provide as much information as possible. Your employers are concerned about you. Keep them informed.

As a citizen, one of the first things we were called upon to do on Sept. 11, was to pray. The song, "God Bless America," is sung with new feelings of pride, patriotism, and love of our great nation. We have seen patriotism, honor, and the selflessness of many people giving their time, talents, and money to those in need. Out of this horrendous act of terrorism, we as a nation have been reunited with our fellow Americans. Our prayers continue to reach out to the many families who have been touched by this tragedy.

And finally, President Bush our commander and chief, called upon the men and women of our military to "be ready." As NCOs, we are ready to give leadership, direction, and support to the United States military when we are called upon.

Minuteman



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Dobbins loses a familiar face, good friend

By Senior Airman Reid Hanna
Public Affairs

Since 1993, Charles E. Richardson has guarded Dobbins Air Reserve Base as a 94th Support Group Department of Defense police officer. On Oct. 4, at the

age of 65, Richardson died due to heart failure.

Prior to his position with the DOD police, Richardson had retired as a Master Sgt. in the Army Special Forces after 23 years of service. Among his accomplishments were two tours in Vietnam and carrying the American flag at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Inauguration.

In his years at Dobbins, Richardson saw security alarm systems become computerized, closed circuit monitoring of the flightline installed, and the first attack on American soil since

WWII. As a DOD Police Officer, he was respected, dedicated, and reliable. Chief of Security Police William Moody said, "He was dedicated, dependable, and upheld military core values in everything he did. Most of all, he was always there for us." Many of his co-workers describe him as a professional. One DOD Police officer, Terrance E. O'Melia, explained, "He obviously had a strong sense of duty. He had no problem enforcing rules, but he was always fair. He has made a lasting impression on everyone he met."

Of his character, O'Melia said, "You seldom meet someone who becomes a good friend. He was a good friend, a good father, and a good husband. You can't do much better than that." Surviving Richardson are two daughters, a son, a stepson, and his wife, Lynn.

A fixture at Dobbins for years, DOD Police Officer Charles E. Richardson passed away last month. Highly regarded by his friends, Richardson was described this way: "You seldom meet someone who becomes a good friend. He was a good friend, a good father, and a good husband. You can't do much better than that."



America at its Best — Our Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard in Action

By Brig. Gen. Chip Diehl
United States Air Force

Washington D.C. - I have never been prouder in my 26 years of serving our great nation — our American spirit has never shined as bright as when we came together in response to the tragedies of Sept. 11. From coast to coast, from the Rockies to our plains, citizens and families, churches and communities, businesses and charities . . . everyone united to comfort, console and recover from the harrowing depths of sorrow.

At the same time, our armed forces are responding to the call of its commander-in-chief, as we have since George Washington rallied his fellow citizen soldiers to defend their homeland. Now, our men, women and forces have deployed and have been called to act — flying combat missions against state-sponsored terrorism. I am proud . . . we, my brethren in arms, are proud . . . we said we were ready, and our airmen have proved us right!

My pride has swelled even higher when I again see our Total Force and notice how our "citizen airmen" are stepping forward. Our Reserve and National Guard brethren are among the first to volunteer for active duty. Day after day, they serve as some of our best, most capable "reserve" forces. I feel they are among our most cherished national treasures, often unsung, but always ready.

As our nation has united with the world, so, too, has our Total Force team united to support our president and defend our freedoms. Total Force is for real — combining our active duty forces with our

Reserve and National Guard components to form one seamless, strong, tremendously capable team. From every state, every profession, every background, men, women, officers, enlisted, young and old have stepped forward to meet this calling. We are one team . . . one very powerful, very capable team.

My career has been in the mobility business — flying cargo and tanker aircraft — and I have witnessed first hand the Total Force and our Reserve forces in action from flying airdrop missions to combat to routine cross-ocean cargo flights. No longer are they a force in "reserve." They are fully integrated in the day-to-day mission of our Air Force — training to the same standards of our active duty. No longer are they known as "week-end warriors," since the average number of days Reserve aircrew members spend on duty every year is 144, with support members averaging 63 days. They are known in our Air Force as "professionals," "volunteers" and our "neighbors."

Professionals — in that our Reservists and Guardsmen provide us capability across the entire spectrum of our military operations - they are chaplains, maintainers, air traffic controllers, linguists, pilots, communicators, medics, public affairs, security forces . . . virtually all career fields. They're professionals with tremendous experience, sometimes spanning decades, in the performance of their specialty. Aircrew members, for instance, will have thousands of flying hours of experience. Equally, they've "been there" many times, having served in Desert Storm, Kosovo, and on active duty.

Many of us are in awe of their vast experience and credentials. When they speak, we listen, we appreciate.

Volunteers — in the early hours after the attacks of Sept. 11, we had thousands of Reservists and Guard men and women in Washington, D.C., and New York volunteering to serve. While the nation understands and appreciates their commitment of two weeks per year and weekend duties, many "volunteer" their time to serve whenever called. What's amazing is many volunteer more than 100 days a year — that's 100 days on top of a full-time job and time away from their family. Yes, they are commercial pilots, stockbrokers, lawyers and many don't need the income. They volunteer to serve because they truly love wearing the uniform; they love serving the nation and protecting the freedoms we believe in and enjoy — which is far more rewarding than any salary. As we spun-up military operations in support of Enduring Freedom, the Air Force had thousands of Reserve and Guard volunteers step forward. And with the president's mobilization of our Reserve units, there has been no shortfall of units ready to go!

Neighbors — they are our carpool partners, our dentists, our Little League coaches, our Sunday school teachers, our friends. They have families, and they have full-time civilian jobs. When called up, when they deploy, they are missed. We all should salute them, their families and their employers. When they leave their jobs, most employers keep that job for them when they return. For all employers, thank you . . . we sincerely appreciate your sup-

port, understanding, patriotism and kindness — your Air Force salutes you! For all the families, we are all one family . . . we will continue to bond together to take care of each other as we endure this calling.

When you see our Air Force in action on TV, you won't be able to tell a Guardsman, Reservist or active duty airman. We are a team — a Total Force team. When a Reserve member comes on duty, they are ready, willing and definitely able. When the armed forces or our nation need them, our Reserve components will be there - volunteering, ready to serve. When you see your neighbor packing his or her bags, smile and hug them . . . he or she is off to protect our freedoms and a way of life we cherish.

When you see a Guard member at the airport ensuring security, tell them "thank you." They are proud . . . they will appreciate your kindness.

Your Air Force demands so much of our Reserve components . . . they never waver, they never let us down. From Sept. 11 through our deployments today, they again have shined . . . and responded.

Your Air Force and Nation salute with great admiration our Guard and Reserve professionals. We also salute and thank the employers of these men and women . . . your sacrifice and generosity is appreciated.

At this difficult, demanding moment when our nation, this world is calling upon our military, we all should be proud of our Reserve and Guard professionals, their call to arms truly exemplifies the wonderful and enduring soul and spirit of America.

Reservists beware!

By Master Sgt. Stan Coleman
Public Affairs

The terrorist events of Sept. 11 created a heightened awareness of national security and our vulnerabilities as a nation. As members of the military, we are called on to be extra vigilant regarding our duties and the safety of our families.

"Everyone in the armed forces is a potential target," said Master Sgt. Terry Wilson, NCOIC of Security Forces Training Resources. "Our personal safety begins at home. Your personal vehicle for example — I check every morning to make sure that there are no visible signs of tampering. The car doors are locked. And I make sure that there are no visible signs of forced entry into the passenger compartment, trunk or underneath the hood. There are no wires hanging or visible signs of taped attachments.

"If you are observed making security checks around your home and vehicle, your actions will discourage someone from making you a potential target."

According to the *Service Member's Personal Protection Guide: A Self-Help Handbook to Combating Terrorism*, July 1996, provided by the Joint Chiefs of Staff at Washington D.C., there are three important steps to combat terrorism. They are: keep a low profile, be unpredictable and stay alert.

In keeping a low profile, your dress, conduct and mannerisms should not attract attention, according to the guide. It's best to use discretion on where you go when in uniform, said Wilson. If you need to make a stop for a prolonged period of time coming off of duty, change clothes.

"Being unpredictable includes varying your patterns in a number of ways," said Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Murphy, 94th Security Forces manager. "For instance, when you leave for work, vary your route to and from the base. A terrorist will observe your patterns. People usually depart for work within a 10-minute time frame.

"If a constant pattern can be determined — for instance you arrive at the same stop sign around the same time each morning," said Murphy. "A bomb in the water bottle of a bicycle could be planted at that corner to detonate when you arrive."

Murphy also warns of innocent habits that may make us targets. "Leaving a copy of your orders on the front seat of your car will provide information to make you a target," he said. "A potential terrorist or anyone else will have your name, address, duty station and security clearance just by looking through the window. Or, opening an unlocked car door and acquiring home information from other documents such as insurance papers."

Staying alert includes "watching for anything suspicious or out of place" according to the Joint Chiefs of Staff Guide. The guide advises to be aware of who you're talking to on the phone and don't give out personal information. If you suspect you are being followed, go to a preselected secure area. Report the incident to base security or the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and local law enforcement agencies.

In addition, the guide advises servicemembers to let people close to you know where you are going, what you'll be doing, and when you should be back.

If you have a security concern, contact base security at (770) 919-4908 or the Air Force office of Special Investigations at (770) 919-3991.

House, home and family security according to the *Service Member's Personal Protection Guide: A Self-Help Handbook to Combating Terrorism*

Tips for the family at home

- Restrict the possession of house keys. Change locks if keys are lost or stolen.
- Lock all entrances at night, including the garage. Keep the house locked, even if you are at home.
- Destroy all envelopes or other items that indicate your name and rank.
- Do not draw attention to yourself; be considerate of neighbors.
- Avoid frequent exposure on balconies and near windows.
- Be alert to peddlers and strangers.
- Write down license numbers of suspicious vehicles; note descriptions of occupants.
- Treat with suspicion any inquiries about the whereabouts or activities of other family members.
- Know where your children are at all times.
- Never leave young children alone or unattended. Be certain they are in the care of a trustworthy person.
- If it is necessary to leave children at home, keep the house well lighted and notify the neighbors.

Suspicious packages

Characteristics include:

- An unusual or unknown place of origin.
- No return address, or just a city or state.
- A foreign country's postmark, or no postmark at all or the appearance of foreign style handwriting.
- Excess postage (overpaid) or postage paid with numerous stamps.

—Restrictive markings such as "personal," "confidential" or "special delivery."

—Misspelled common words, misspelled, badly typed or written addresses or a title instead of a person's name.

—Unevenly shaped, rigid or bulky packaging.

—Excessive tape or string used to bind the package.

—Strange odor, oily stains or residue, powdery substance on exterior of the envelope or package.

—Wires or strings protruding from or attached to an item.

If you have a piece of mail that fits some of the above examples:

—Don't panic. Remain calm.

—Limit the number of people who come in contact with the item.

—Handle anything suspicious with care. Do not shake, bump or try to open it.

—Never cut tape, strings or other wrappings on a suspect package or immerse a suspect letter or package in water.

—Never touch or move a suspect package or letter -- the movement could trigger a detonation device.

—Do not use a telephone, walkie-talkie type radio or cellular telephone near the package. Telephones, radios, cellular telephones and even light switches can trigger explosive devices.

—Isolate the item. If it is an envelope, place it into another envelope, a clear plastic bag, or if these are not available, cover the item with anything, such as a plastic sheet, clothing or trash can. Do not remove this cover. If you can eliminate excessive contact with the envelope, do so.

—If the material has spilled, cover it immediately as described above.

—If it is a package, segregate it in a secured area.

—Leave the room and close the door, or section off the area (recommended 150-foot perimeter) to prevent others from entering.

—After securing the item, wash your hands vigorously for five minutes with soap and water.

—Report the finding to your supervisor and or law enforcement officials.

Security at Dobbins is serious -- but there is always room for humor



Brig. Gen. William Kane, 94th AW commander, doesn't stop talking security. His philosophy is to make Dobbins ARB more secure today than it was the day before. Thanks to one of his group commanders, he was eating more securely at one meal. While he was a little surprised at his new seating arrangement, sandbags and all, in the Consolidated Club, he took the humor in stride and with a smile, but then it was back to business.

"We've had some pretty tense and long days in the past couple of months, and I'm always up for some lighter moments," he said. "I'll use the moment as a way to continue to emphasize the importance we are placing on homeland defense. We are a changed nation, and sights like sandbags around the base are with us for a while." (Photo by Don Peek)

Anthrax: What you should know and not be afraid to ask

By Maj. (Dr.) E. Mark Shusterman
507th Medical Squadron flight surgeon

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. - We all recall the military's hotly debated anthrax vaccination issue, which only a year or two ago sparked a tremendous upheaval of opinion.

Who among us would have predicted that the matter of this relatively obscure disease would again come suddenly to the forefront and become the very stuff of our daily lives? Who would have thought that the halls of Congress would so suddenly become grim, ghostly realizations of our fictional fears? Now, as not long ago, beneath the frenzy of misinformed speculation, rest the facts.

To avoid falling prey to half-truths and innuendo, the following is a summary of information about anthrax, gathered from the Centers for Disease Control, United States Army Research Institute of Infectious Disease and other sources:

* Anthrax is caused by a bacterium, *Bacillus anthracis*, which forms resilient spores and can survive in the environment for many years. The germ is relatively easy to culture and store in large quantities. Many countries have turned it into a weapon, including the former Soviet Union, Iraq, North Korea and others.

* Anthrax is a naturally occurring disease of herbivores, such as cattle, sheep, goats and horses. *B. anthracis* spores are found in the soil of many continents, and are likely germinating quite happily in your back yard. Occasionally, humans who work with farm animals will

contract it.

* Human anthrax manifests in three forms, depending upon the mode of transmission: cutaneous, gastrointestinal and inhaled.

Cutaneous anthrax appears as a blister at the point where spore contamination took place. The blister eventually becomes a black scab; hence, the term anthrax, which originates from the Greek word for the color black and shares its root with anthracite, a type of coal. Cutaneous anthrax is rarely fatal even if untreated, and can be cured easily with antibiotics in virtually all cases. This is the most common form of anthrax in humans.

Gastrointestinal anthrax can result from ingestion of undercooked contaminated meat. It is very uncommon but is usually fatal if untreated. Symptoms include fever, malaise, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. If detected early, response to antibiotics is excellent. Untreated, it progresses to a systemic infection, ending in shock, organ failure and death.

Intentional contamination of meat supplies is possible but highly unlikely due to the logistical nightmare that such a task would present if carried out on any significant scale. Typical cooking of most meat makes such an effort very unproductive.

Inhalational anthrax, or Woolsorter's Disease, is caused by the introduction of *B. anthracis* spores into the airway and the lungs. It is very uncommon in nature but presents the greatest weapon potential due to its lethality. The incubation period - the time from exposure to onset of symptoms

- is one to six days, though far longer intervals have been reported. Antibiotic treatment is effective only in the early stage, which manifests as a flu-like illness. The disease progresses rapidly if untreated, and no therapy is significant 24 to 36 hours after the appearance of severe symptoms.

* The anthrax vaccine has been used for many decades worldwide. It does not contain the anthrax germ or anything else that can be harmful. It is essentially 100 percent effective when the series of six immunizations is given and offers tremendous protection even after two shots. The vaccine's immunity can be overwhelmed if a person is exposed to millions of spores or possibly thwarted by genetically engineered *B. anthracis* strains.

* The only current U.S. manufacturer of the vaccine is undergoing a FDA-mandated plant upgrade, resulting in a significant shortage of the product.

* Anthrax is treated primarily by one of three antibiotics: ciprofloxacin, doxycycline and penicillin. The course of therapy can last several months. Those who may have been exposed to *B. anthracis* usually receive ciprofloxacin for prevention of the disease. All antibiotics can cause serious health problems for the individual and the community, and should not be taken without a clear medical indication. There is absolutely no reason to stockpile antibiotics in the home, or to take them at the drop of a sneeze.

* Fortunately, anthrax cannot be transmitted among individuals, barring very unusual circumstances, such as autopsies of recently deceased victims or ingestion of heavily contaminated blood.

* Anthrax is extremely difficult to disseminate on a large scale, is not contagious and requires highly sophisticated bioweapons delivery technologies to infect entire communities. The Soviets built *B. anthracis* warheads for their missiles. We are not likely to see those missiles exploding in anyone's airspace, least of all ours. Envelopes containing *B. anthracis* can frighten many but can hurt only a few and kill even fewer. There is absolutely no reason to worry - just be informed and prudent.

Additional reliable, accurate information about anthrax, bioterrorism and other related topics can be found on the following Web sites: www.nbc-med.org US Army Surgeon General's site on nuclear, biological, chemical defense; www.usamriid.army.mil USAMRIID Web site; www.hopkins-biodefense.org Johns Hopkins University Center for Civilian Biodefense; and www.bt.cdc.gov CDC's bioterrorism preparedness and response Web site.

Although the events of recent weeks have been painful and unsettling, keep things in perspective. As individuals, we stand an enormously greater chance of being harmed by our daily modes of transportation than by terrorist acts, particularly those involving anthrax or another biochemical weapon.

So, leave the gas masks at the base, the antibiotics on the pharmacy shelves and the panicked expressions in the tabloids. (Air Force Reserve Command News Service from a 507th Air Refueling Wing news release)

AAFES wants Guard, Reserve to 'get connected'

DALLAS - Reservists and National Guardsmen can enter a special "Get Connected" sweepstakes when they log onto the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's Web site www.aafes.com Oct. 5-31.

The exchange service is holding the sweepstakes to attract online Guard and Reserve customers because most of them live outside commuting distance to the nearest exchange.

"Not only will winners receive great prizes, such as large-screen televisions and computers, but the same prize will be awarded to the winners' unit," said Barry Gordon, senior vice president of AAFES Cyber Region.

In conjunction with this promotion, AAFES is offering a special three-month, zero-interest, no payments promotion for on-line Military Star Card purchases made Oct. 5-31. Cardholders can also get a 10-percent discount off their first online purchase.

"Guardsmen and reservists are a very important part of the military family," Gordon said. "We want them to know that with online shopping, taking advantage of the exchange privileges they've earned is as close as the nearest computer. Even uniforms can be ordered from our online Army and Air Force Military Clothing Catalogs."

Members of Air Force Reserve Command and other reserve components, as well as their authorized family members, have had unlimited shopping privileges at military exchanges since 1990 when Congress removed restrictions on customer eligibility. (AFRC News Service from an AAFES news release)

Thrift savings plan for the military

On Oct. 30, 2000, President Clinton extended the participation of the Thrift Savings Program, which was originally only for Federal civilian employees, to members of the uniformed services. The TSP allows members to contribute a percentage of their monthly pay towards one of five different investment funds. People can contribute up to seven percent of their pay initially which can be increased up to 10 percent by 2005.

Since Oct. 9, airmen who have joined the service for education, training, travel or patriotism will also have the opportunity to amass a retirement nest egg of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Remember, this is totally separate, and in addition to, the member's regular military retirement plan.

Members can go to Finance, MPF Customer Service Section, and Family Readiness to receive the TSP booklets and enrollment form or visit the Web site at www.tsp.gov.

Interested members can obtain a hard copy of the TSP booklet and the enrollment form; however, it is the member's responsibility to read the information in the booklets and fill out the form. Interested members should go to the Web site to gather as much information as possible before making any decisions. When you make your decisions take the TSP-U-1 Thrift Savings Plan Election form to Finance.

Note: All other forms required should be mailed or faxed according to the instructions on each form.

94th passes the tests and wins award

By Senior Airman David Atchison
Public Affairs

The Drug Testing Achievement Award for 2000 was recently awarded to the 94th Airlift Wing at the Air Force Worldwide Demand Reduction Program Conference.

AFRC mandates that 25 percent of the wing be tested for drug use each year, but the 94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, tested 30 percent of the personnel in 2000. That's more than 400 people and there was only a 2 percent margin of error in the test.

"The program is a success because of the cooperation of the group commander's and the first sergeants," said Tech Sgt. Ernest Farmer, 94th ASTS, drug testing program administrative manager. By stressing the importance of the program

and being flexible during UTAs, the command has made it easier for airmen to get tested and get back to work, he added. The command's support helped the 94th ASTS administer more tests per UTA.

"The program and tests are meant to be a drug usage deterrent and not a means to 'catch' people," said Tech Sgt. Denise Bryant, 94th ASTS, demand reduction program manager. Random testing ensures that everyone is following the Reserves' drug policies because anyone could be tested at any given time. Bryant, who recently replaced Tech. Sgt. Martha Alley as program manager, said she hopes to lead the program to another award for 2001.

"With the continued cooperation of the command and the troops, it looks as if the program will continue to be a success," said Bryant.



Service with a smile. Tech. Sgt. Ernest Farmer (left) and Tech. Sgt. Denise Bryant (middle) assist customer Tech. Sgt. Katrina Jones (right), so she can finish her testing and get back to work. (Photo by Senior Airman David Atchison)

Member Spotlight: Flight Chief is heart of squadron

By Senior Airman David Atchison
Public Affairs

"Only the most highly qualified personnel are selected to be part of the Air Terminal Operations Center," said Chief Master Sgt. Walt Langford, 80th Aerial Port Squadron operations superintendent, quoting from the Air Force directive for the position.

"The ATOC is the heart of the Aerial Port Squadron," he added. In that respect you could call Senior Master Sgt. Tom Hunt the heart monitor.

As ATOC flight chief, Hunt is responsible for supervising and controlling all ATOC resources, as well as selecting the personnel who perform the duties of the center. He's a firm believer in the Air Force core values, especially service before self.

"Being available to serve is 95 percent of the game," said Hunt. "The Reserve is like a family and part of what makes it effective is the reliability of its components." Being a member of the 80th APS, he understands the family dynamics of the Reserve, which for Hunt goes back



even further to his brother.

"I joined the Reserve because my brother and his friends were already members," said Hunt. Several years after his brother left the service, Hunt continues to serve. He served four years active duty in Security Forces and has 19 years in the Reserve. Hunt strongly believes in service

before self and tries to keep himself open to opportunities by staying prepared.

"Always stay a step ahead of the game, keep up with your PME's and stay sharp," said Hunt, whose philosophy for life is to not beat around the bush, to always take responsibility for your actions and take care of business. A leader should take care of his people as long as they take care of business, he says.

"Being reliable also shows those higher in the chain of command that you are consistent," added Hunt.

When not "monitoring the heart," Hunt is the father of four children: Katrina, 12, Matthew and Dustin, 10, and Brittany, 4. He's a police officer for Gwinnett County and in his spare time enjoys golfing. Hunt is a Shriner and member of the Yaarab Temple.

Dobbins welcomes two more to the rank of chief



Newly-pinned Chief Master Sgt. Jimmy McKenna (top) and Chief Master Sgt. Bill Biggie had the honor of joining the chiefs ranks during the October UTA. (Photos by Don Peek)

What rights do you have when you are called to active duty?

By Capt. Manubir S. Arora
94th Airlift Wing, Legal Office

If you are a Reservist or a Guard member being called to active duty you need to know your rights provided to you by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act (SSCRA). This article covers: leases, loans and interest rates, health insurance, state income taxes, civil lawsuits and professional liability insurance.

1. What is the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act and who does it protect?

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act (SSCRA) is a federal law that gives all servicemembers some important rights as they enter active duty.

2. When does the SSCRA protect me?

Most SSCRA protection commences on the day you receive your orders to active duty.

3. I have heard that the interest rates on my loans are reduced to 6 percent by the SSCRA. How do I get my creditors to change my interest rates?

You may be entitled to have the interest rate on some of your loans and credit cards reduced to 6 percent for the time you are on active duty. There are a number of special requirements. You need to talk to a legal assistance attorney to ensure you are eligible. You may be eligible if you and your loan meet the following conditions:

- Loans and credit cards taken out prior to being called to active duty.
- The interest rate is currently above 6 percent per year.
- Your military service affects your ability to pay the loan at the regular (preservice) interest rate. Generally

this requirement means that you make less money in the military than you make as a civilian. There are some special legal issues here — you should be ready to talk to your legal assistance attorney about your entire financial situation.

- You must notify the lender by letter and provide them a copy of your orders to active duty.

4. What kinds of loans qualify for the interest rate reductions?

If the loan is eligible for relief, any loans incurred by servicemembers before their entry into active duty qualify for the SSCRA interest rate relief, including:

- * home mortgages
- * credit card accounts
- * personal loans from banks or credit unions
- * department store accounts
- * business loans for which the service member is personally liable as a result of having either signed the promissory note individually or having personally guaranteed the business' debt.

5. What about the lease on my apartment? I live alone and I will not be there. I want to let my apartment go and put my furniture in storage. Can I get out of my lease?

Generally - yes. If you have a lease for a house, apartment, or even a business location, you may be able to get out of the lease when you go on active duty. Here are the requirements:

- You originally signed your lease when you were not on any form of active duty. You do not have to have a military clause in the lease.
- You have received your orders to active duty.
- You gave written notice to your landlord that you want to terminate your lease. You will still have to pay rent for a short while. Your landlord can charge you rent

for 30 days after the date your next rent is due, after the date you give your written notice. For example: you give your notice on Dec. 15. Your next rent is normally due Jan. 1. The landlord can make you pay rent until Jan. 31. The key is to get the written notice in the landlord's hands as soon as possible.

- If you attempt to terminate a business lease, there are some special considerations that you need to look at. Talk to a legal assistance attorney first.

6. I have to go to court on a lawsuit that came up over an auto accident last year. How can I get the lawsuit delayed?

If you are a party (one of the people suing or being sued) in a civil case (not a criminal case), your commander can ask the judge to stay or temporarily delay the proceedings until you can appear. Generally, your commander will have to show that military duty is keeping you from going to court. This is a tricky legal area - come see us at the Legal Office.

7. I am self-employed and I have health coverage that is pretty expensive. Can I stop my health coverage? What will happen when I get off active duty and I try to start it again — will I still be covered?

You may want to suspend your civilian coverage. If you do this, the SSCRA will require your civilian insurance company to reinstate your coverage when you get off active duty. They have to write you a policy. They cannot refuse to cover most "preexisting conditions."

The issues covered here are sometimes very complex and you should consult a Judge Advocate for guidance. You can contact the Dobbins ARB Judge Advocate's Office by calling (770) 919-5199.

Airlines, Gl's join forces to carry flag across America

By Maj. Linda Haseloff
482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE, Fla. - After seeing the Flag Across America Web site, Maj. Darryl Smith knew he could help the fund raiser for victims of Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

An American Airlines pilot and a traditional reservist with the 93rd Fighter Squadron here, Smith was deployed to Southwest Asia when he suggested the transcontinental run include a flag flown by an Air Force Reserve Command F-16 pilot over southern Iraq's no-fly zone.

He asked, "What better place to start the flag than where horrendous terrorist thoughts actually started?"

The flag is now on its way across America, hand-carried by runners who left Boston, Mass., Oct. 11 en route to Los Angeles, Calif., as a demonstration of American resolve and in support of the

victims. The cities represent the origin and destination of American Flight 11 and United Flight 175.

To achieve their goal, hundreds of volunteer runners from American Airlines, United Airlines, the U.S. military and other federal agencies are carrying the flag in a month-long, round-the-clock, Americans United Flag Run. Organizers plan for the last relay runners to arrive in Los Angeles Nov. 11, Veterans Day.

American Airlines First Officer Mike Burr was the key organizer for the event.

"As I read about Jim Ogonowski's eulogy for his brother John, who was the captain of AA Flight 11, I was struck by his comment that 'by hitting American and United, the terrorists really created an America United,'" Burr said. "I thought about that, and decided that there was no better way to show the unity, resolve and determination that characterize our nation

than to get the country on the road to recovery by getting on the road, literally waving the flag from sea to shining sea."

Burr said the framework of the Flag Across America organization encompasses primarily airline and military members but emphasized that the effort is open to all Americans, from all walks of life.

"We want everyone to visit our Web site (www.flagrun.org), see what we're up to and where we are each day," he said.

When Smith contacted Burr with his idea, Smith thought the 3- by 5-foot flag flown over Iraq would be an appropriate addition to the flags that were to be carried during the relay. The relay organizers decided that the flag would be the only one to make the trek across the country.

After Smith learned of the decision, he ran the flag from his room to his squadron commander, Lt. Col. David Lint, on the flight line. Lint carried the flag on a combat mission over Iraq Oct. 2. In

addition to Smith and Lint, more than 100 reservists from Homestead's 482nd Fighter Wing deployed to Southwest Asia from mid-September to mid-October in support of Operation Southern Watch.

"I was the first person to run the flag to the aircraft and I will be one of many who will be there with the flag at the end," said Smith, who plans to be on the last leg of the relay into Los Angeles. "It's just the right thing to do."

"On Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, we will stand proudly with this flag on the Pacific Coast," Burr said. "We are collecting patches from each fire department and police department along our route that want to donate these items and these will go with us to the West Coast.

"We would love for all 50 states to send us a state flag so that we can complete the ceremony in Los Angeles as 'one nation, under God, indivisible' - an America United," he said.

What is the Al Qaeda network?

By Senior Airman Chance Babin
Air Force Reserve Command News Service

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - As America wages war on terrorism, evidence continues to point to the Al Qaeda network and Osama bin Laden. But what is the Al Qaeda network and why do its members hate the Western world so much?

The Al Qaeda network is a multi-national conglomerate of terrorist groups throughout the world established in 1988 by bin Laden toward the end of the Soviet Union war in Afghanistan. Its goal is to “unite all Muslims and establish a government which follows the rule of the caliphs,” according to a United States government fact sheet on the organization.

“Caliphate” refers to the dominion of caliphs, the immediate successors of Mohammed. Bin Laden has stated that the only way to establish the caliphate is by force. Therefore, one of Al Qaeda’s goals is to overthrow most of the Muslim governments, which are viewed as corrupt, and to drive out Western influences from those nations, eventually abolishing state boundaries.

The war brought on by the Soviets caused many Muslims to declare a holy war or “jihad” against the USSR as Muslims from throughout the world came to fight side-by-side with fellow Islamic believers.

After the Soviets withdrew from Afghanistan, bin Laden and Al Qaeda focused their holy war on a new enemy - the United States.

It’s ironic that the 1980’s Afghan resistance fighters and their worldwide support network were, in large part, supported and trained by the United States, Saudi Arabia and other states. Today’s Al Qaeda network is said to have terrorist cells in more than 50 countries.

One of Al Qaeda’s goals is to drive U.S. military forces out of Saudi Arabia and other Muslim nations, while “liberating” Islam’s three holiest places - Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia and Jerusalem in Israel.

In a 1998 edict, bin Laden called on Al Qaeda (Arabic for “the base”) to be ruthless: “We call on every Muslim who believes in God and wishes to be rewarded to comply with God’s order to kill the Americans.”

The U.S. government says bin Laden and his Al Qaeda network are responsible for thousands of deaths from the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, as well as the passengers aboard the hijacked aircraft.

The Sept. 11 attacks are only the latest in a series of terrorist attacks that have been linked to the Al Qaeda organization. Other terrorist acts attributed to Al Qaeda include:

- * The first attack on the WTC Feb. 26, 1993, which killed six and injured 1,000;
- * Members providing military training and assistance to Somali tribes that participated in attacks on U.S. military personnel resulting in the deaths of 18 Army personnel in October 1993;
- * Five service members killed Nov. 25, 1995, in Saudi Arabia by a car bomb;
- * Nineteen airmen killed and 400 wounded June 25, 1996, when a car bomb exploded outside the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia;
- * The bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania Aug. 7, 1998, in which 224 people were killed; and
- * The Oct. 12, 2000, attack on the USS Cole in Yemen, which killed 17 sailors and injured 39.

Bin Laden was born in Saudi Arabia around 1955, one of Mohammad bin Laden’s 52 children. The bin Laden family made billions of dollars through the Bin Laden Group, a construction company heavily involved with Saudi government contracts. Osama inherited approximately \$300 million after his father’s death.

He first went to Afghanistan in 1979 to fight the Soviets and began establishing networks for funneling fighters and money for the Afghan resistance. In 1988, bin Laden created Al Qaeda, an extremist group whose campaign expanded from merely supporting Muslim nations waging military campaigns to a global network.

Bin Laden returned to his native Saudi Arabia after the war but was forced to leave the country in 1991 because of his terrorist activities. He was stripped of his Saudi citizenship in 1994.

He moved to Sudan in 1991 and remained there until 1996 when he was expelled from that nation under pressure from the United States, Saudi Arabia and the United Nations. Bin Laden has also been linked to the assassination attempt of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in 1995.

Afghanistan’s ruling Taliban government gained control of the country in 1996, and the Islamic fundamentalist sect has been protecting bin Laden and treating him as a guest ever since. He has established several Al Qaeda camps throughout Afghanistan, where recruits are brought in and taught warfare and terrorist techniques. (Babin is assigned to the 926th Fighter Wing, Naval Air Station New Orleans, La., and is on temporary assignment to AFRC News Service)

Taliban: new term for Americans

By Senior Airman Chance Babin
Air Force Reserve Command News Service

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - Since the Sept. 11 attacks on America, the Taliban has become part of the nation’s vocabulary. The combination of religion, politics and some very non-Western ideals lay the groundwork for understanding those opposed to the United States.

The Taliban (which means student) is the Islamic fundamentalist group that rules most of Afghanistan and is the host of Osama bin Laden. Since its rise to power in September 1996, only Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Pakistan have recognized the Taliban as the official government of Afghanistan.

The Taliban movement was started in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in 1994 by a group of students who espouse an extreme interpretation of Islam. The Taliban captured the capital of Kabul from the mujahedeen regime in 1996, ousting the government of Burhan-ul Din Rabani.

The Taliban’s founder and spiritual leader is Mullah Mohammad Omar, whose goal is to transform Afghanistan into a perfect Islamic state by enforcing a strictly fundamentalist way of life. As a result, movie theaters were closed, and television and music were banned. Men were also required to grow full beards and women were forbidden access to education, employment and healthcare.

Afghanistan is slightly smaller than Texas and has a population of more than 26.5 million people from approximately 20 different ethnic groups. (AFRC News Service)

Islam: fastest growing religion in America

By Senior Airman Chance Babin
Air Force Reserve Command News Service

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - As America begins its war against terrorism, the religion of Islam is being dragged into the fray as an accomplice to the crimes, but as President Bush has said, “Islam is peace.” The United States is not targeting the religion of Islam but rather those who use it as an excuse to commit acts of terrorism.

Islam is the second-largest religion in the world with more than 1.3 billion followers and the fastest growing denomination in America. There are 5 to 7 million Muslims in the United States, nearly half are converts and the others are immigrants from such countries as India and Pakistan, as well as Arabian and African nations.

From that population, between 10,000 to 20,000 members serve in the U.S. military, with a few hundred in the Air Force Reserve Command.

Those who follow the Islamic religion are called Muslims. The Koran (also spelled Quran) is their holy book and its contents were revealed to the prophet Mohammed by Allah (God) in the year 610.

Although Arabic is the language of the Koran, not all Arabs are Muslims and not all Muslims are Arabs.

Islam is broken down into two major sects: Sunni and Shiite. About 85 percent of all Muslims are Sunnis, who are the majority in such nations as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey and Afghanistan. Most West African and Palestinian Muslims are in the Sunni sect.

Shiites are the second largest sect in Islam. Shiite Muslims represent the vast majority of believers in Iran and exist in large pockets in Lebanon, Iraq and Bahrain.

The differences in the two sects dates back to Mohammed’s death in 632, when they argued about who would succeed him as caliph (spiritual and temporal leader). The Shiites believed the caliphate should be Ali, Mohammed’s son-in-law, while the Sunnis believed a new leader should be elected. Ali did become caliph 24-years after Mohammed’s death and was later murdered.

A more recent development within the Sunni sect that has a direct tie to the mindset of Osama bin Laden and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan is the Wahhabi movement, which originated in Saudi Arabia in the 18th century.

The Wahhabis hold an orthodox view of Islam. They stress traditional conservative observance of Islam as revealed by Mohammed and disapprove of changes in the religion after his death. Wahhabis reject polytheism, condemning reverence of saints and the decoration of mosques. The strict interpretation of Islam is often labeled as fundamentalist. (AFRC News Service)

November UTA Schedule

*schedule is subject to change

Saturday, November 3

TIME	ACTIVITY (OPR)	LOCATION
0700-0830	OPEN RANKS/SIGN IN (CC)	UNIT ASGND
0730-0800	WING ELEMENT STAFF MTG	BLDG 838/RM 1202
0730-0900	NEWCOMERS INTRO	BLDG 838/WCR
0730	M16A2 RIFLE CLASS (SFS)	CATM RANGE
0830	M9 PISTOL CLASS (SFS)	CATM RANGE
0830-1130	OUTPROCESSING BRIEF(DMPA)	BLDG 838/RM 2406
	0830-REASSIGNMENTS	
	0930-TDY (>30 DAYS)/SCHOOL TOURS	
	1030-RETIREMENTS	
0900-1500	NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION	BLDG 838/RM 1202
0900-1100	NBCWD (REFRESHER TNG)(CEX)	BLDG 838/RM 1322
1000-1100	PCIII WORKERS GP	BLDG 827/RM 208B
	(OCT/JAN/APR/JUL)	
1100-1200	FIRST SERGEANTS GP MTG	BLDG 838/94AES
1300	OCCUPATIONAL PHYSICALS	NAVY CLINIC
1300-1500	CDC EXAMS	BLDG 838/RM 2304
1300-1500	NBCWD (REFRESHER TNG)(CEX)	BLDG 838/RM 1322
1500-1600	DEPLOYMENT MGRS MTG(XP)	BLDG 838/WCR
1600	RETREAT (CC) UNIT: 94CES	BLDG 922/FRONT

Sunday, November 4

TIME	ACTIVITY (OPR)	LOCATION
0645-0730	OPEN RANKS/SIGN IN (CC)	UNIT ASGND
0730	PHYSICAL EXAMS (AIRCREW)	NAVY CLINIC
0730-1600	COMBAT ARMS TRAINING (SF)	SFS RANGE
0800-1100	IMMUNIZATIONS	NAVY CLINIC
0800	PHYSICAL EXAMS (NON-AIRCREW)	NAVY CLINIC
0830-0930	TOP 3 MTG	TBD
0900-0930	C.A.I.B. MTG (FR)	BLDG 838/WCR
0900-1000	YELLOW FEVER SHOTS	NAVY CLINIC
0900-1030	OUTPROCESSING BRIEF(DPMSA)	BLDG 922/RM 205
	0900-REASSIGNMENTS	
	1000-TDY (>30 DAYS)/SCHOOL TOURS	
	1100-RETIREMENTS	
0900-1200	CDC EXAMS	BLDG 838/RM 2304
0900-1400	NBCWD (INITIAL TNG)(CEX)	BLDG 838/ROOM 1322
1000	IG COMPLAINTS	BLDG 838/RM 2105
1000-1030	ENL ADVISOR COUNCIL MTG (SEA)	BLDG 838/WCR
1000-1100	30-DAY RECORD REVIEW	BLDG 838/RM 1202
1130	CMDR'S WORKING LUNCH	COM (MARIETTA RM)
1300-1400	FLYING SAFETY	BLDG 727/700 AS
1300-1500	IMMUNIZATIONS	NAVY CLINIC
1300-1400	FLYING SAFETY	BLDG 727/700 AS
1315-1400	SUPERVISOR SAFETY TNG	BLDG 744/
	(MAR/JUN/SEP/DEC)	2ND FL TNG RM
1400-1500	SPEAKERS BUREAU MEETING	BLDG 838/WCR
1500-1600	NEWCOMERS MTG (94AW/CC)	CONSOL OPEN MESS
	(APR/JUL/OCT/JAN)	

Herk Wonders



Based on the events of September 11, how significant will Thanksgiving be for you and your family this year?

“This year things will be more in focus and we will be thankful for the things that really matter. It is easy to take things for granted, like security, freedom, and health.”

Master Sgt. George T. Curry, 94th Airlift Wing, wing historian

“Now I really recognize how thankful I am for having my family close to me.”

Tech. Sgt. Sharon Richardson, 94th Airlift Wing, NCOIC Plans Office,

“It reminded me of how precious life is and how much I cherish my girls. Our gathering will remind us of how important we are to each other and how thankful we should be to be together.”

Staff Sgt. Lisa C. Carr, 94th Mission Support Squadron, customer service specialist

“We will be happy to be so blessed, but sad for the families who were hurt in the tragedy.”

Delores Green, 94th Mission Support Squadron, military personnel technician

“It has always been a tradition to think of others. This year we will respect those who gave of themselves in this tragedy. The nation will all be thankful and mindful for what this country stands for.”

Tech. Sgt. Perry McClendon, 94th Security Forces Squadron, unit personnel specialist

Want to see the UTA schedule sooner? The most current issue of the *Minuteman* is always available online one week prior to the UTA. Access it at http://www.afrc.af.mil/22AF/94aw/pa_minuteman.asp

NCO leadership development program (NCOLDP)

The Base Training Office will be hosting two NCOLDP courses for FY02. The dates are March 11 - 22, 2002 and June 3 - 14, 2002. This course is designed for mid-level enlisted personnel (E-4 minimum grade). The curriculum addresses theories and concepts of leadership and management and is highly recommended prior to becoming a supervisor. There are 24 seats available for each class, on a first-come, first-serve basis. Personnel selected must be submitted to the Training Office by letter, with their commander's signature. POC is Tech. Sgt. Angie Cooper, (770) 919-5043.

Basketball Jones

Do you have skills on the court? Prove it. The Fitness Center will be hosting a 3-Point Shooting Challenge at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 7 on the Fitness Center basketball court. Trophies will be awarded to the first- and second-place finishers. For more information, call (770) 919-4872.

Win a car at the Dobbins Consolidated Club

The Consolidated Club's annual membership drive kicked off Aug. 1 and will run through Nov. 18. The Air Force Reserve Command Services is scheduled to give away a car to one lucky new member and one car to an existing member. As the membership drive edges closer be on the lookout for how you can benefit from joining the Air Force Club system. For more information, call (770) 427-5551.

Holiday Craft Fair

The Dobbins Consolidated Club will host its first Holiday Craft Fair Nov. 24 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Craft Fair provides inexpensive holiday crafts to members and the base population. For information about selling crafts at the fair, contact Kevin Gontarek at (770) 919-4594 by Nov. 10. Booth rental fees are \$50 and must be prepaid. A minimum of 15 booths must be reserved to hold the fair. The Club will have a snack and sandwich bar open for hungry shoppers.

3-on-3 basketball challenge

The annual holiday 3-on-3 half-court basketball tournament will take place at the Fitness Center on Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. The tournament is a single elimination tournament, continually running until a champion is determined. Individual trophies

will be awarded to the first- and second-place team members. The maximum members per team is four. To register your team, contact the Fitness Center at (770) 919-4872.

New Years Eve Party

The Consolidated Club is hosting the party of the year. Tickets go on sale Dec. 4 at 9 a.m. for \$35 per person. This year's party features an expanded menu including "Tornados of Beef," a dish that includes medallions of tenderloin grilled to perfection topped with a morel and chanterelle mushroom sauce or "Seafood Vol au Vaunt" that includes shrimp, scallops lobster and crab simmered in a white wine sauce and served in a puff pastry shell. Also included are a split of champagne to be served at 11:45 p.m., breakfast to be served at 12:30 a.m., party hats, favors, decorations and live entertainment. Lodging representatives will be on hand during ticket sales to make lodging representatives. Space available reservations are subject to change due to military requirements. For more information, call (770) 919-4594.

Slot on the Resale Lot

Are you looking for a place to sell your car, truck, motorcycle, RV, camper, boat or trailer? Well, the Dobbins Outdoor Recreation/Rental Center has a spot waiting for you. For \$5 dollars a month for motorcycles, \$10 for cars or 1/3 ton small trucks and \$15 for 1/2 / 3/4 ton trucks; and \$20 for RV's, boats, trailers and campers you can showcase a vehicle you want to sell on the Dobbins Resale Lot. For more information, call (770) 919-4872.

Active-duty retirees can get information on joining the Reserve

The Air Force Reserve is offering active-duty military retirees the opportunity to return to military service.

The National Defense Authorization Act for FY2001 added Section 12741 to Chapter 1223, Title 10 USC, which permits retired active-component service members who later serve in the Air Force Reserve to elect retirement as members of the retired Reserve.

In addition to helping Air Force Reserve Command fill a critical need, active-duty retirees will receive several benefits for continued military service as reservists.

Interested people who believe they qualify for the program can contact the Recruiting Opportunity Center at 1-800-295-4648 where they can leave information

for a recruiter to call them back. To learn more about joining the Air Force Reserve visit www.afreserve.com/retiree.

Tuition assistance to increase, include master's degree

Air Force Reserve Command will increase the maximum amount of assistance and level of course work offered through its Tuition Assistance Program starting Oct. 1.

The maximum aid reservists may receive annually will climb from \$2,500 to \$3,500, and the program will expand studies from a bachelor's degree up to a master's degree.

The changes are part of the Reserve's ongoing effort to attract recruits and bolster retention.

Unit reservists can learn more about the eligibility requirements and program features from base/wing education and training offices. Individual mobilization augmentees can obtain assistance from Delaina Hull of the military training division at Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver. ARPC/DPAT's telephone number is (303) 676-6396 or DSN 926-6396. (AFRC News Service)

Lodging price change

Based on the lodging rate determination package, SAF/FMC has approved raising the lodging rates at Dobbins. A \$4.50 increase will result in a \$19 cost for all VAQ, VOQ, and VQ rooms, and is needed to stop the operating losses resulting in a financial drain on the Command Lodging Fund's ability to fund approved facility improvement projects. Distinguished VAQ and VOQ suites will increase to \$27.50. These rates include a \$3 surcharge levied by HQ USAF/ILV for construction of new Air Force TLFs and VQs. This increase was implemented July 1. Effective Oct. 1, the Air Force increased the surcharge by \$4 per night. Dobbins rates increased to \$23 for VQ, VAQ and VOQ rooms and \$31.50 for distinguished visitor quarters.

Family Readiness

Family Readiness continues to visit units to assist members with their personal readiness plan. Members complete the items on their personal affairs checklist and keep the items in a personal affairs packet. Family members should always know where the packet containing items such as wills and powers of attorney, insurance policies, birth and marriage certificates, and bank account numbers are located.

The 94th AW Community Action

Information Board (CAIB) will meet on Sunday of the November UTA at 9 a.m. in the wing conference room.

Additional Family Readiness Volunteer spouses are needed for our unit family support groups. The volunteers are trained to assist the unit families at times of major mobilization.

Each unit should have at least five volunteers for their family support group.

The 94th AW Family Readiness Unit Points of Contact will be meeting on Sunday of the October UTA in room 2313 of building 838.

The week of Nov. 18 - 24, has been declared by President George Bush as Military Family Appreciation Week.

For more information, contact J. Ealy Ritter at (770) 919-5004. If out of the Atlanta area, call toll free (888) 436-2246, ext. 9-5004.

In times like these

Now, more than ever, family support information is paramount. Mission readiness corresponds to family readiness. The following list of links was compiled to help families prepare for what may lie ahead: the American Red Cross — www.redcross.org, Family Tool Kit — www.defenselink.mil/ra/family/toolkit, Veterans Affairs — www.va.gov, TRICARE — www.tricare.osd.mil, Reemployment rights — www.ncesgr.osd.mil, Dobbins Family Support — www.afrc.af.mil/22af/94aw/familyreadiness.asp and Family Support — www.afcrossroads.com.

Show your gratitude

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve wants to recognize supportive employers for aiding the Reserve in serving the nation. Reservists can nominate their employers, who support them in employment, for an ESGR Award. For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Terry Hood, local ESGR volunteer, at (770) 919-5048.

Conflict resolution

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve wants to help reservists solve conflicts with their civilian employers. The ESGR Ombudsman Program is an informal mediation service available to uniformed service members or their employers who are experiencing conflict because of military duty. For information about this or any other ESGR Programs, contact Senior Master Sgt. Terry Hood at (770) 919-5048 or the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NCESGR) at (800) 336-4590.

Mixing the blue and green



Army Reserve Col. J. Ealy Ritter and Senior Master Sgt. Robert Dutton, both of Family Readiness, chat after Dutton's retirement ceremony in September. As a civilian employee and Army reservist, Ritter doesn't wear his Army Greens often at Dobbins ARB, but promised to wear them for the ceremony.

Small businesses hurt by call-ups may apply for loans

WASHINGTON - The U. S. Small Business Administration will make low-interest loans available to small businesses employing reservists called to active duty during a military conflict, provided the employee is critical to the success of the business's daily operation.

If the employee's absence causes the business "substantial economic injury," the business owner can apply for a Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan through one of the SBA's four disaster offices.

"The loss of a key person, even for a short time, can devastate any small company," said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. "Small businesses sometimes fail when such an employee is called away to military service.

"This program will provide economic support for those businesses, which in some cases are the major source of jobs in those communities," he said. "We must do all we can to protect these companies."

The program applies to conflicts occurring or ending on or after March 24, 1999. Small businesses meeting all the eligibility requirements have until Nov. 24, 2001, to apply for a loan. Otherwise, the filing period begins the date the essential employee is ordered to active duty and ends 90 days after the date the employee is released from active duty.

The maximum interest rate is 4 percent, with terms up to a maximum of 30 years. The SBA will determine the term of each loan and the installment payment amount, based on the financial circumstances of each borrower.

Loans are capped at \$1.5 million, based on the actual economic injury not covered by insurance, as calculated by the

SBA. If the business is a major source of employment in the community, the SBA can waive the \$1.5 million limit.

The SBA requires borrowers to purchase and maintain full hazard insurance for the life of the loan. Borrowers whose property is located in a special flood hazard area must purchase flood insurance for the full value of the property.

Businesses interested in applying for an economic injury disaster loan can contact an SBA disaster area office to obtain an application. The offices, phone numbers and states each office serves are:

Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14303, 1-800-659-2955: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virgin Islands, Virginia, and West Virginia;

Atlanta, Ga. 30308, 1-800-359-2227: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee and Wisconsin;

Fort Worth, Texas 76155, 1-800-366-6303: Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wyoming; and

Sacramento, Calif. 95853-4795, 1-800-488-5323: Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.

More information about SBA's disaster assistance program is available on the administration's Web site: www.sba.gov/disaster. (Air Force Reserve Command News Service from a SBA news release)

Newly Assigned

Col. Gregory F. Kline
Maj. Douglas J. Hopper
Capt. Richard Brewer
Capt. Dick David
Capt. Robert J. Fairbanks
Capt. Kenneth B. Herndon
Capt. William B. Smith
Capt. Charles S. Wertheim
Lt. Teresa A. Eggleston
Master Sgt. Ryan K. Spicer
Tech. Sgt. Ginger K. Hasting
Tech. Sgt. Robert S. Melton
Tech. Sgt. Patricia A. Palmer
Tech. Sgt. Daniel Simmons
Tech. Sgt. David A. Wagner
Tech. Sgt. Scott Yoder
Staff Sgt. Gregory M. Barratt
Staff Sgt. Janet A. Bishopp
Staff Sgt. Shandria Brown
Staff Sgt. Gregg A. Fleming
Staff Sgt. Rhomas E. Fuller
Staff Sgt. Rex C. Griffith, Jr.
Staff Sgt. Vincent E. Harris
Staff Sgt. Karen Huffstetler

Staff Sgt. Marlon N. Manigbas
Staff Sgt. Branden D. Parrish
Staff Sgt. Shawn D. Salsman
Staff Sgt. Nathaniel E. Selman
Staff Sgt. Shannon L. Wilkins
Senior Airman Adam R. Alvord
Senior Airman Angela D. Baxter
Senior Airman Kelly C. Boyce
Senior Airman Kevin E. Burnett
Senior Airman Jason R. Cantrell
Senior Airman Angelo Donegan, Jr.
Senior Airman John Fitzgerald
Senior Airman Carroll D. Jennings
Senior Airman Kerri A. Kraft
Senior Airman Rico Madden
Senior Airman Sean McDermott
Senior Airman Troy Mickens
Senior Airman David R. Venenga
Airman 1st Class Jessica L. Glass
Airman 1st Class Jarrett Godwin
Airman 1st Class Danielle L. Gordon
Airman 1st Class Gregory S. Jackson
Airman 1st Class Denytra Nelson

Hornburg nominated to command ACC

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — President George W. Bush has nominated to the Senate today Gen. Hal M. Hornburg, commander of Air Education and Training Command here, for reappointment to the grade of general as commander of Air Combat Command with headquarters at Langley Air Force Base, Va.

The Senate must now approve the nomination.

General Hornburg has commanded AETC since June 2000 and will return to ACC where he served as vice commander from January to June 2000. He will succeed Gen. John P. Jumper, who left ACC in September to become Air Force chief of staff.

Stop-Loss keeps needed reservists from changing status

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - Air Force Reserve Command implemented a freeze on Oct. 2 to keep members of the Ready Reserve for a minimum of 30 days.

The Stop-Loss affects voluntary military discharges, military resignations, releases from extended active duty and certain military reassignments and retirements. At the end of the "freeze" period, AFRC officials will reevaluate the Stop-Loss and may extend it.

The AFRC Stop-Loss temporarily blocks changes in status that would allow reservists to leave units or programs at risk for call-up. The Stop-Loss affects the following:

- * Expiration term of service
- * Reassignment to a lower category of availability
- * Assignment to the Retired Reserve, awaiting pay at age 60
- * All voluntary separations before expiration term of service
- * Officer resignations

The freeze may also affect the civilian portion of an air reserve technician's position. Employees whose only civilian retirement eligibility is the result of an involuntary separation from the Reserve will not be eligible to retire. If eligible, ARTs may retire under a civilian optional retirement but usually must stay in the Reserve military portion (Part B) of their ART position. (AFRC News Service)

Travis Tritt and Country Music Television praise Dobbins personnel

Country entertainer Travis Tritt visited Dobbins Air Reserve Base on Oct. 16. During his 3-hour visit, Tritt spoke to military members about the effects of the Sept. 11 attack on America.

The segments filmed at Dobbins appeared on Sunday, Oct. 21 as part of a benefit featured on Country Music

Television. The benefit, entitled "Country Freedom," raised money for the Salvation Army. Tritt was one of 16 artists appearing on the show.

Tritt, a Marietta-native and Georgia resident, chose Dobbins as the location he wanted to highlight for the benefit.

